

MIKE COFFMAN
6TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

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VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0606

March 5, 2018

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COFFMAN.HOUSE.GOV

Dear Colleague:

I urge you to support the bipartisan, bicameral BRIDGE Act (H.R. 496 & S. 128) by signing the discharge petition I have filed for it to come to the floor of the House of Representatives.

I have always said that if Congress did not pass a bill providing for a permanent solution for the "Dreamers" by March 5, 2018, that I would press to bring the BRIDGE Act to the House Floor. March 5th has now passed and we have not as yet come to agreement on a permanent solution. I think we all agree that until we do, we should provide these individuals who were brought here as children through no fault of their own, and have violated no laws apart from immigration laws, some certainty. Voting on and passing the BRIDGE Act will do just that.

The BRIDGE (Bar Removal of Individuals who Dream and Grow our Economy) Act provides temporary relief (a "bridge") from deportation and employment authorization to young undocumented immigrants who grew up in the United States if they register with the government, pay a fee, and pass a criminal background check.

Specifically, the BRIDGE Act provides "provisional protected presence" and employment authorization for three years from the date of its enactment to applicants who:


- Arrived in the U.S. as minors;
- Pay a reasonable fee;
- Enrolled in school, have graduated high school, or have earned a GED;
- Undergo criminal background checks;
- Have not been convicted of a felony, a significant misdemeanor, or three or more misdemeanors;
- Do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or a threat to public safety.

An individual's provisional protected presence and employment authorization would be subject to revocation by DHS if the individual no longer met the eligibility criteria.

I hoped we would have passed a lasting legislative solution for the Dreamers through regular order by now, but we have not. So, the time for a discharge petition has arrived. The discharge process simply requires the signature of 218 members of the House and, once those are obtained, allows for the immediate consideration of a bill that has been before its committee of reference for more than 30 legislative days without action. The three years of protection provided by the BRIDGE Act will surely give us the time to finalize a permanent solution for the Dreamers and is clearly preferable to continued inaction. We must give these youths the certainty that they can continue to work and study here in the U.S. while Congress debates broader legislation to fix our flawed immigration system. Providing them this peace of mind is immensely important to them, their families, and their communities.

Please join me in supporting this important measure to ensure our immigration reform and security efforts proceed fairly and rationally. To sign the petition, please visit the Clerk's desk on the House Floor.

Sincerely,



Mike Coffman
Member of Congress
6th Congressional District of Colorado